

WOLF PRINT



The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 56 | Autumn/Winter 2015

'I learned a lot about wolves, I guess'

Dave Mech talks exclusively to Wolf Print

Meeting of the wolf clan

Report from Wolf Awareness Weekend in Edinburgh

Red not dead

Why we need to love and nurture the beautiful red wolf

NEWS



EVENTS



RESEARCH



MEDIA AND ARTS



Cover artwork of Mosi by Onnie Burford-Roe

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Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, RG7 5NT.
Tel: 0118 971 3330, fax: 0118 971 0522, email:
ukwct@ukwolf.org, website: www.ukwolf.org

Editor

Julia Bohanna. Tel: 0118 971 3330
Email: editor@ukwolf.org

Assistant Editor

Francesca Macilroy

Editorial Team

Wendy Brooker, Mike Collins, Nikki Davies, Sue Fine,
Pete Haswell, Jessica Jacobs, Cammie Kavanagh, Lynn
Kent, Pete Morgan-Lucas, Tsa Palmer, Denise Taylor

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AIMS OF THE UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST

- To increase public awareness and knowledge of wild wolves and their place in the ecosystem.
- To provide opportunities for ethological and other research that may improve the lives of wolves both in captivity and in the wild.
- To provide wolf-related education programmes for young people and adults.
- To raise money to help fund wolf-related conservation projects around the world.

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Editor's Letter

To some of us – the initiated and the spellbound – the wolf is a magical creature. Look at the beautiful depiction of Mosi on our cover by artist Onnie Burford-Roe; fall deep into Mosi's eyes and like a seasoned hypnotist, she may truly mesmerise you. In this issue we celebrate the magic of the wolf: how children react to wolves in storybooks and that a whole seminar, Wolf Awareness Weekend in Edinburgh was recently dedicated to discussing them. I was proud of being part of the Trust contingent in Scotland, which included Tsa Palmer, Johnny Palmer, Director Sue Hull, Specialist Advisor Kirsty Peake and Wolfkeeper Mike Collins. I have tried to disseminate the main elements in my seminar write-up but there was a lot to mull over. If you are interested in any of the speakers – please check out their websites etc. I was thrilled to get an interview with Dave Mech. Imagine spending 57 years doing something you love and still remain humble and receptive to other people's viewpoints. Another individual fascinated by wolves.

We also had our 20th anniversary party at the Trust recently, which was a chance to catch up with friends of course – both human and wolf variety. I walked with both, appreciating wolves loping through sun-battered fields while Troy Bennett, who was one of the Edinburgh speakers and was recently interviewed by the BBC, educated me about various feathers we found. As ever, a real joy.

Our lovely long-legged lopey lupines certainly polarise people. Montana officials are now talking about offering an online wolf trapping

course (<http://mtp.org/post/fwp-wants-states-wolf-trapping-course-available-online>), whereas the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (<http://leonardodicaprio.org/leonardodicaprio-foundation-grants-15-million-to-global-conservation-efforts/>) has given millions to animal conservation, including wolves. It was clear from the Edinburgh seminar that there is much to do when it comes to farming-people-predator conflict worldwide, in terms of awareness, management and just 'roll up your sleeves and talk about it' dialogue. The species is now widespread in Europe and clearly has planted permanent paw prints there. I also work for a London branding agency. If the wolf was a brand, discussions around the table to market it to the public would never end, complicated by diverse emotions like love, hatred, fear and passionate loyalty. But let's please always bring science and logic into the equation.

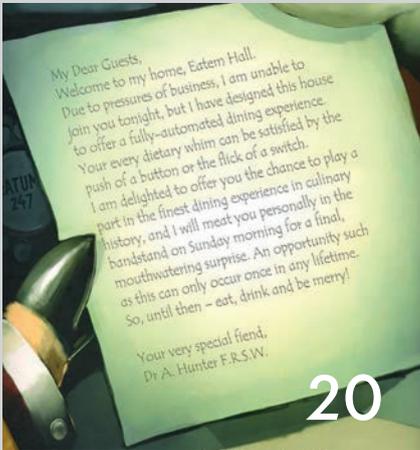
We have reached a wonderful milestone at 20 years with the Trust. Roger Palmer would have proud of what Tsa and all at the Trust have achieved and that his children will continue his work. But then he might have said: 'Come on, things to do, lots more to achieve.' So onward we go into 2016, impatient for change, awareness and just a good old-fashioned debate. In this part of my life I am a slave to the magic of the wolf and happy to be so. Happy Christmas and a positive New Year to you all!

Julia Bohanna

Julia Bohanna, Editor



4



20



22



24



Contents

REGULARS

Editor's Letter	2
Wolves of the World Lupine news worldwide	24
Making Tracks Book reviews and interviews	27
Merchandise New and exclusive gifts and souvenirs	32

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

Trust News News and Events	4
Director's Letter	7
Update on the Trust's Wolves	8

FEATURES

Wolves in France The wolf situation in France	13
The Edinburgh Wolf Awareness Seminar	14
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Children's responses to a picturebook wolf	20
The Red Wolf The endangered wild red wolf	22

INTERVIEWS

Dave Mech – wolf biologist for nearly six decades	17
Onnie Burford-Roe – artist	27

EVENTS

All the upcoming events and activities	34
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Austin the African spurred Tortoise with some admirers by Tsa Palmer

The Open Wednesdays were very popular during the summer holidays here at the Trust, especially with the added attraction of Luke Quirk and his Animal Roadshow. Visitors were able to hold and learn about a variety of creatures such as Dusty the Bosc Monitor Lizard (very popular with the children), Bounty the Giant African Millipede, Boris the Chilean Rose Tarantula, Legs, a five year old female Mexican Red Knee Tarantula, Feather the Common Boa constrictor and Red the Blue Tongue

Skink, and many many more. On the last week of the summer holidays Luke brought along Austin, an African spurred Tortoise who was 16 years old and weighed an incredible 20.6 kilos. Austin not only drew the attention of the visitors but also that of the wolves, as Nuka and Tala were carefully watching him with intrigue and curiosity from their enclosure.

Luke gave two talks a day at the Trust focusing on endangered species; he explained how scientists assess the

effects of humans on an area using the acronym HIPPO (Habitat Loss, Introduction of Species, Pollution, Population and Over hunting), giving some examples of each one during his talks. Luke was able to further explain by showing a few items such as alligator skin handbags, a green sea turtle shell and crocodile skin leather belts (given to him on loan by the UK Border Force). No matter the time of day, Luke always seemed to draw a large crowd. Although we did have mixed weather, the children were still entertained by activities that were being held in the Education Barn. They were kept busy by making wolf masks, playing wolf education games on the computer and painting bug and bird boxes to take home. Feeding time is also popular here at the Trust on a Wednesday and many visitors gather to see what the wolves are going to be fed and the different foods that they eat.



Bug box painting by Tsa Palmer

Work experience students have also been hard at work by carving out of wood and painting the wingspan of a red kite in order to show visitors how large their wingspans can be. Young children had fun over the holidays comparing the length of their arms to that of the kites' wingspan. The red kites are now a permanent feature at the Trust and many visitors are amazed at their presence, especially how close the birds come during the wolves' feeding time.



The wingspan of a red kite by Tsa Palmer



Mosi by Darren Prescott

On Friday the 4th September the Trust received a group of visitors who were attending a three day werewolf conference called The Company of Wolves, which was being held at Hertfordshire University. They also covered other areas such as shapeshifters and feral children, exploring where some of the myths and legends had originated from throughout the literary world. The conference consisted of professors, scholars, writers and those just interested in the subject matter. On arrival they were greeted with teas and coffees and then taken down to the Education Barn where they were given a presentation about wolf communication by Fran followed by a tour of the Trust. They ended on a high as Mosi howled, creating a response from the other wolves in turn.

October half term was also a huge success with the creative writing workshop with Michelle Paver, international bestselling author of the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series. Michelle encouraged the children to write their own wolf stories, showing the objects that gave her inspiration for her books and ideas, so they could make a story exciting to the reader. The children were captivated by Michelle and enjoyed the experience immensely, with the highlight of the day being able to walk with Mai on site. The week ended with another creative writing workshop - this time with bestselling author of The Last Wild trilogy, Piers Torday. Piers read some of his gripping stories and left the children wanting more. He also helped them develop their ideas and gave feedback on some of the children's stories.

A new large banner of the six wolf cubs Torak, Mosi, Mai, Nuka, Tala and Tundra has been placed on the kennel wall of Torak and Mosi's enclosure. Visitors try and guess which wolf is which. Did you get them right?



The wolves from left to right are as follows, Nuka, Mai, Mosi, Torak, Tala and then Tundra.

Berkshire Moth Report

Berkshire Moth Group was invited to Beenham on 7th August. Following a presentation by Craig outlining the purpose and activities of the Wolf Trust, BMG member, Les Finch, gave an introduction to the world of moths, dispelling the idea that they are horrible 'little brown jobs' that eat clothes. An insight into the life cycle of moths was provided, together with their importance in the food chain; following which the practicalities of trapping and recording moths were covered.

Visitors were then led on a conducted tour along the perimeter of the wolves' pens, whilst the moth group members set up four light trapping devices. The latter were run for about two hours from dusk, during which time some 240 macro moths in 68 species were attracted to the mercury vapour lamps. All the moths seen were subsequently recorded into the National Moth Recording Scheme database that serves to monitor the distribution and populations of moths throughout the country.



Black Arches Moth by Les Finch



Brimstone Moth by Les Finch

Whilst some moths were 'potted-up' for examination by the visitors, all were released unharmed at the conclusion of the session. The good range of species was supplemented by the capture of Small Mottled Willow, an immigrant species which is only occasionally recorded in Berkshire.

Les Finch



On our October half term Open Wednesday, the Howl and Hoot event proved to be a huge success. A variety of birds were on display including Siberian owls, Elmo the Great Grey Owl and other birds of prey such as a Harris hawk and a kestrel. A large crowd gathered in the bottom field where the flying displays were being held and the children were delighted when the owls flew low above their heads. At 2pm, the wolves were given pumpkins that were stuffed with their favourite treats.



Mike with grey owl by Trevor Goddard

Finally on "Howloween", the fog slowly and eerily settled itself in for the night, creating a creepy atmosphere; the perfect setting for our ghostly Howl Night. Along with the volunteers, several members of the public dressed up in Halloween costumes and prizes were given for the scariest costumes, best costumes, along with some runner up prizes. The wolves howled throughout the night and did not disappoint; when the visitors tried their own howling, they were rewarded when the wolves answered them back.



Pat Melton with Geoff Collins by Mike Collins

Recently the Trust was paid a visit by Geoff Collins, a 21 year old student from Southampton with a passion for wildlife and a keen interest in wild canines. In his spare time he has volunteered at the New Forest Wildlife Park as a keeper for the past two years, assisting with the wolf talks in the summer months while also working as an assistant dog trainer/walker. During his visit Geoff kindly donated £800 out of his personal savings to the worldwide projects supported by Trust. Originally the money he set aside had been intended for a holiday somewhere in the Americas until he discovered the struggle that some wolves are facing. Geoff commented: "I felt that they are a keystone species in the ecosystem and felt that I am obliged to help such a beautiful yet misunderstood animal in any way I can." We are very grateful for Geoff's donation from which many projects may now benefit. Geoff is also now a Friend of The Trust and helps out on Wednesdays.

Francesca Macilroy

DONATIONS THIS QUARTER

Cheque to Jean-Marc Landry IPRA (Institut pour la Promotion et la Recherche sur les Animaux de protection)

£3,000

Cheque to Jose Vicente Lopez Bao - Iberian Wolf Research Project

£2,000

Cheque to Claudio Sillero - Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

£5,000

TOTAL GIVEN IN ALL

£10,000

On 6th September the Trust celebrated its 20th Anniversary year. In celebration, over 70 current and ex volunteers and distinguished friends of the Trust such as Ian Redman founder of Wolf Help, anthropologist Professor Garry Marvin, Troy Bennett and a photographer from Reading Chronicle attended a party. Ian Redman gave a thoroughly enlightening and educational presentation that contained the works of several biologists such as David Mech, focusing on a variety of different predator and patterns of prey selection, after which the guests enjoyed a large hog roast.

On Behalf of The UKWCT, Tsa Palmer presented a cheque of £5,000 to The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme, which was gratefully received by Jongelino Silerio (wife of

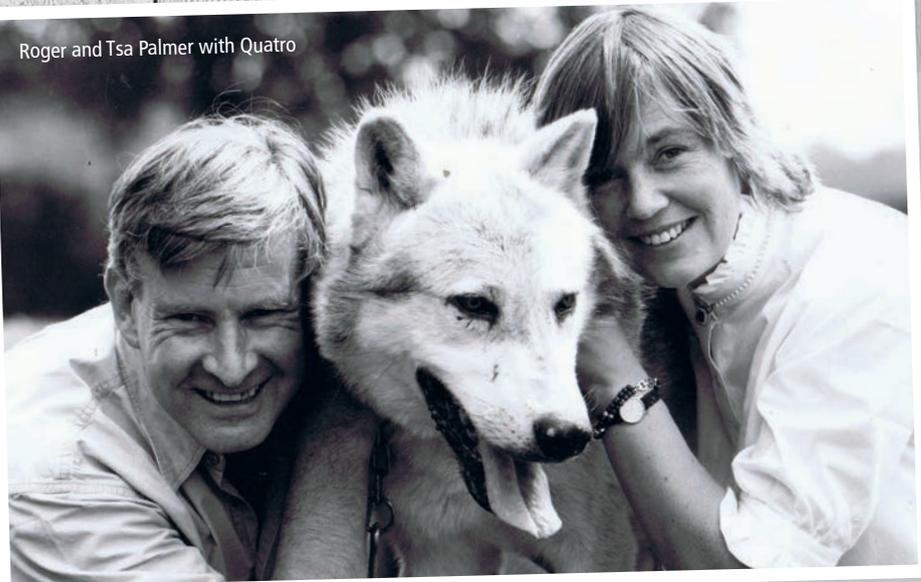


The cake at the Trust's 20th Anniversary by Pete Morgan Lucas

Claudio Silerio, founder of EWCP), which brings the Trust's total donations worldwide over the £250,000 mark. The celebrations continued with a walk with the Beenham pack, Nuka, Tala and Tundra and of course everyone enjoyed a piece of 20th anniversary birthday cake!



Roger and Tsa Palmer with Quatro



The wolves played their part perfectly, but because they are wild animals and due to the licence requirements, it meant that the whole set had to be enclosed in a secure wire-meshed fence and the tightest security measures observed, with the wire being dug down two feet down and eight feet high.

This fenced off field became for many years the photographic area used for Photo Days and Queenie and Quatro and subsequent wolves enjoyed being able to roam in the area and exercise freely, all thanks to the BBC.

When this filming took place we and the wolves had only just moved into Butlers Farm – the bright lights used during the night filming alarmed locals living in nearby Bradfield – people thought they were UFOs landing and walked across the fields to investigate,

As the theme of this edition of *Wolf Print* is magic I thought I'd mention the wolves' starring roles in the BBC's production of John Masefield's *The Box of Delights*. Published in 1935, it tells the story of Kay Harker, who returns from boarding school when he finds himself mixed up in a battle to possess a magical box. It allows the owner to shrink in size, to fly swiftly, to go into the past and experience the wonders contained within the magical box.

The BBC TV adaptation of *The Box of Delights* was broadcast in 1984 and episode two 'Where Shall The Knighted Showman Go?' was filmed for two days here at Butlers Farm – the scenes recorded showed Kay with the mythical hunters of the forest, Herne and his visit to an iron age encampment which is attacked by wolves.

The wolves featured were Queenie and Quatro, who were aged two and five years old at the time. Quatro was the more seasoned performer, having done a considerable amount of work in films such as *The Company of Wolves* and *An American Werewolf in London* and even travelling to Denmark with myself

starring in a film called *Ulvetim* – where he was visited by the King of Demark, such was Quatro's fame!

The production of *The Box of Delights* was delayed as a result of industrial action by the BBC. The sequence prior to the Beenham scene took place near Aberdeen during the worst snowdrifts of the winter and so the sequence recorded in Beenham was originally scheduled for March. It was actually filmed in mid-June 1983 and consequently, the crew found themselves shooting supposedly dark winter scenes on the longest day of the year so great care had to be taken to avoid lush foliage and pale skies. Work, which could not begin until 10pm continued until first light, during which time the wolf enclosure behind the house became a flurry of activity as the 30 or so actors and actresses, technicians wielding smoke and wind machines, and lighting and camera crews rolled into action. There was even a fire engine making fake snow! It was hard to believe this was Beenham as fires blazed in the snowy encampment, long-horned, primitive breeds of cattle lowed in the stockade and the wolves and dogs jumped over the defences!



Tsa with Queenie

only to find a savage landscape surrounding a primitive encampment, ravaged by wolves! The wolves had truly made their arrival known in Beenham!

On the theme of magic, there's nothing more magical than having snow for the wolves. They really do look their best in these conditions, so let's hope we get lucky and have some this winter.

A very happy Christmas and New Year. We hope to see you in 2016.

Tsa Palmer



The Box of Delights episode two



The Mouse That Roared

Our Arctic wolves don't like every Trust event . For our 20th anniversary, 70 of us were on tables alongside the Arctics' enclosure. Although the wolves are fully aware that our volunteers regularly replenish their water buckets and bring containers of food, they were having none of it. Even with the divine smell of roast hog wafting across! They retired to the back of their large enclosure behind the mature trees, not coming out until the party was over. Small soirees are definitely not on their "bucket" list!

At our Predator Day events, our wolves can get edgy. When the hawks and falcons are being flown, we go into fields where the wolves will be less disturbed. Nevertheless, the Arctics will often give out their warning signals. Recently Pukak was very vocal, starting with a deep-throated barking, seemingly

clearing his throat, then howling in indignation. They should count themselves lucky to be in Beenham and not Kazakhstan, where falconers use powerful golden eagles to hunt wolves!

Now into autumn/winter, the Arctics' coats change in texture and quantity. Coats become longer, soft fur bushes

up underneath guard hairs, building up for colder nights. Senior Handler Bridget says this soft underlay is like backcombing your hair to give volume from beneath.

For wolves, this is a natural transition. Eventually, they will appear up to a third bigger in size than in summer.



Massak by Darren Prescott

At four and a half years old the Arctics have come into their own, with coats looking like proper Arctics' should! The creamy tinge to off white colour of their previous juvenile coats has turned them into immaculate pure white 'swans'.

On our Wednesday open days, there are great opportunities for people to watch the Arctics in their enclosure. Visitors once saw Sikko grab and kill an unfortunate vole that pushed its

luck. The vole had an acre of enclosure but chose to walk right under Sikko's nose! Having killed the vole pronto, she clasped it between her forepaws, and tried to eat it, but didn't take into account the sinewy body. A vole is four inches long, but she slowly stretched him to double his length. As it got longer (and thinner!), something had to give – when it could stretch no more, like any elastic band, it broke and pinged right back on Sikko's nose,

giving her such a fright that she sprang away and wouldn't go back to it.

Remember the Peter Sellers' film *The Mouse That Roared*? This little rodent got the last "word" in and went out with a roar! It's not often a vole takes on an Arctic wolf - particularly when said vole is bereft of life! What Sikko will do when another vole comes her way!?

Suzanne Fine



Sikko by Mike Collins



Pukak by Mike Collins



Mosi and Torak update

After an indifferent summer, there is a distinct chill in the air. Lupine hormones are triggered in readiness for winter and breeding season. Their pelts have developed a velvety look as their undercoats begin to grow.

Mosi and Torak are nine - only yesterday they were boisterous cubs. They can still behave like youngsters, particularly if they see our director Tsa or her daughter Lara when out on an enrichment walk. Torak gets particularly excited, wriggling and wagging his tail, a real departure from his usual aloof personality. Lara and brother Johnny are now associate directors of the Trust, and in our 20th anniversary year, it's great to see the next generation of Palmers taking up the wolf conservation baton.

Early September, Mosi got into the spirit of our anniversary when we presented a cheque to the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project, taking our worldwide conservation donations to over £250,000. Volunteers and special guests enjoyed hog roast supplied by Graham, who does building work around the site. For reasons known only to her, Graham is Mosi's nemesis, so we ate to the accompaniment of Mosi's constant barking and howling, letting Graham know exactly what she thought of him and his tasty pig!

Mosi's exuberant personality amuses everyone. When the right combination of handlers is on site, she and Torak can go on an enrichment walk. If this



Mosi and Torak by Tsa Palmer

doesn't happen, Mosi gets "huffy". One day it was too late - handlers had gone home. Senior handler Pat filled one water bucket; Mosi emptied it by scooping out the water energetically with her front paws the minute Pat had left. Five times this happened; Pat gave up. Mosi made her feelings about not going on a walk clear! Antics like this have made her very popular; she has lots of fans, none more devoted than long-time volunteer Wendy, who promised to bring back some kangaroo meat treats for Mosi after visiting her daughter in Australia - let's hope they don't make Mosi extra bouncy!

Torak can be amusing. Over the summer, the enclosure grass becomes a myriad of thistles. One of Torak's favourite spots to rest is on top of the mound but even tough wolves don't find thistles comfortable! You can see Torak's relief as he stretches out on the newly mown, thistle-free mound.

It wouldn't do his aristocratic reputation any good to be hopping up and down if a thistle caught him in a sensitive place! He is the perfect foil to Mosi. If she gets overexcited, either in the enclosure or on a walk, he growls and she drops down at his feet and submissively licks his chin while he looks haughtily into the distance. He's the only one who can put her in her place!

Torak does not usually invite human contact; any time he sidles up to a handler for a quick stroke is a huge privilege. If he's in the mood for a scratch behind the ears... no-one can pull a goofy face like Torak. We look forward to many more years of fun with these two wonderful wolves.

Nikki Davies



Torak by Eve King

Motomo by Darren Prescott



Mai and Motomo update

The hormonal and behavioural effects of the pseudo-pregnancy that had been troubling Mai in early summer faded by mid-June – she was the wolf we knew and loved.

Motomo had not known how to handle the bad-tempered and stroppy creature who had temporarily replaced his previously affectionate mate. Throughout summer and into early autumn, Mai and Motomo played together – often Mai poking at a resting Motomo with her paw or nose.

Following a few play-bows, they would romp and chase together before either retiring to the shady edge of the copse in the upper left corner of their enclosure, or sprawling on the mound and sleeping through the hottest part of the day.

Both Mai and Motomo moulted fully by the end of July – Mai's delayed slightly by her pseudopregnancy; re-growth began early in September and a month later they were both fully-furred for winter. Motomo's fur has turned lighter – he has an impressive almost-white stripe starting on his head, fanning out over his shoulders, along his back and tapering off at the base of his tail. If he was a gorilla he'd definitely deserve the title of 'silverback'. He's also grown an

impressively bushy tail. Mai has turned slightly lighter all over like sister Mosi and daughter Tala; her muzzle is now almost totally white!

Food-wise, both eat more than they did during summer – Mai will happily take food through the mesh from a friendly handler but we throw Motomo chunks of food over the wire. When he's eating strips of beef he will sometimes stand up on his hind legs to catch an incoming morsel, and will have swallowed it completely before his front paws are back on the ground. The expression "wolfing it down" couldn't be more appropriate! We were also recently given trout to feed to the wolves. In the wild they will naturally take fish (like bears catch spawning salmon from Alaskan rivers). Mai and Motomo were initially confused at these fishy offerings. The heads were eaten (wild wolves often leave the bodies of fish they've caught) and the uneaten fish became a form of enrichment – something smelly to roll on!

When she gets the chance, Mai is happy to walk with her favourite



Mai by Simon Carney

handlers, and will keep in touch with Motomo by regular howling. She sometimes howls back to her sister Mosi: typically Mosi will start off by giving a short howl – a couple of seconds long – to which Mai will reply with a similarly short howl. Given that they are both adults and despite being sisters they view each other as potential competition for mates, we can only assume that these howls serve as a long-range reminder that "Yes, I'm still here...!".

Pete Morgan-Lucas



Beenham update

Summer is moulting season; by the end of July all three Beenhams had shed their underfur (sometimes assisted by willing handlers who pluck it). Fully moulted, you get to see how small a wolf really is – but also the musculature and skeletal structure. The true architecture of a wolf as a finely honed distance athlete can be appreciated.



Nuka by Pete Morgan-Lucas

By late September all three had started to re-grow their underfur ready for winter; it will be interesting to see what colouration results! Tala looks like she will turn greyer just like Mum Mai, while Tundra appears to be turning elegantly white. Face-on she looks startlingly like Duma (our former North American wolf, without the slightly darker patches below her eyes that were a notable characteristic of Duma during middle age). Nuka looks really like Dad Motomo at the same age.

Throughout summer the Beenhams have been eating surprisingly little. We weigh out food for each wolf and feed them separately to judge how much they are taking. When there are visitors we feed Tundra some distance away from the others – we do not want her shyness to mean she misses out on food. On several occasions Tundra has not been interested in taking the food we've offered, whether deer, beef, or chicken – but this doesn't mean she goes hungry; she is highly adept at catching

any stupid pheasant or pigeon that lands in the enclosure and will also gleefully seek out food that has been cached in the enclosure by the others. On average the Beenhams eat around 1.4kg of food each per day – this may not sound much but my dog weighs 43kg (a bit more than Nuka) and he is only meant to have 0.5kg of food daily. As winter

approaches we increase the food – up to nearly 2kg in really cold weather to give extra energy to keep warm. Overfeeding is something we avoid at all costs – a fat wolf is an unhealthy wolf.

On visitor walks, the Beenhams have enjoyed going into the human-waist-high grass and sniffing round. Deer and pheasants are regularly 'flushed' - fortunately the wolves are sufficiently well-fed; they don't really give chase. On hotter days sometimes the whole idea of 'walking' with visitors seems excessive and Nuka sometimes lies down and goes to sleep part way round the walk.

The Beenhams are not always catchable when it's time to take them on a members' walk. Nuka is easiest to catch but we sometimes have to leave Tundra behind when she makes it obvious she doesn't want to come. Once her mind is made up, there's no changing it. That's all part of what makes wolves different to dogs – and what makes them so intriguing to work with!

Pete Morgan-Lucas



Tala and Tundra by Darren Prescott

From “Wolf-Friendly” Labels to Kidnapping: The Wolf Situation in France



Two years before the Second World War, the grey wolf became extinct in France. More than half a century later, an alpha pair crossed the border from Italy, and there are now more than 300 roaming the south-east.

But the return of *canis lupus* has been as controversial as it is incredible. Although they are protected under the 1979 Bern Convention and 1992 Habitats Directive, wolves may be culled if they threaten livestock, a juxtaposition which has both farmers and conservationists up in arms.

If a wolf has caused significant casualties, electric fences and guard dogs have proven ineffective, and killing it will not harm the local wolf population, it may be shot by a “wolf lieutenant” with a special permit. However, after a 30% rise in attacks this year, and human safety fears after a teenager was surrounded by wolves and their cubs, many farmers argue that this is not enough. As a result, union FDSEA has taken increasingly drastic steps in protest, from displaying sheep carcasses and disrupting the Tour de France to kidnapping the president and director of the National Park of Vanoise in Savoie, demanding that wolves inside the parks be culled too and petitioning the French government to remove their “protected” status.

The government’s response has disappointed both sides. The yearly wolf quota has been raised from 24 to 36, and Environment Minister Ségolène Royal has commissioned a “wolf-hunting team” to make sure it is filled, after only 19 wolves were shot last year. At a local level, a handful of mayors signed decrees relaxing the culling regulations, although most were quickly withdrawn after the prefectures declared them illegal. Most disconcerting of all, after the park directors were kidnapped, the Savoie prefecture agreed that six more wolves could be shot, despite the fact that only seven wolves have been counted in the area and one has already been killed. So how have conservationists reacted?

Pro-wolf group FERUS contest that culling is the answer when Spain, with more than 2000 wolves and more livestock, has suffered fewer casualties thanks to better security and smaller flocks. They also query the attack on the teenager, claiming that the pack he described was too big and that it would have been too early in the year for young. Forming the organisation

“Cap Loup” with ASPA and One Voice, they have petitioned the European Commission and Council of State, accusing France of breaking the Bern Convention by increasing the wolf quota, and thanks to their efforts elsewhere, the administrative tribunal of Toulon - where an aforementioned decree was signed - recently ruled against a local increase in the wolf cull. Outside of the courtroom, Alliance avec les Loups has called for Ségolène Royal’s resignation and a boycott of all sheep products unless they carry their own “wolf-friendly” label, stressing that collaboration with wolves is the answer. With tensions running high on both sides, is this possible?

Fortunately, conservationists are not alone in their view. For example, French technology company Natural Solutions is developing an ultrasound sheep collar to deter wolves, and the CanOvis project - of which the UKWCT is a donor - is researching the effectiveness of patou guard dogs. Most importantly, a recent IFOP survey found that 82% of French people are against the eradication of the wolf, and 75% are against culling any protected species. With the aid of public opinion and more projects like these, there is hope that wolves can one day resume their place as a key species in France’s ecosystem.

Jessica Jacobs



Wolf Awareness Weekend

Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre at Edinburgh Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus
19-20 September, 2015

The Edinburgh Wolf Awareness Seminar was initiated by Maxwell Muir, a dog trainer passionately in favour of Scottish lupine reintroduction.

There were talks, video links and a panel discussion. It ranged from the visceral, scientific, romantic, narrative and theoretical. Sunday's discussion about the possible future reintroduction of wolves into the Scottish Highlands delved into the realities of living side by side with a large predator.

Maxwell introduced the whole weekend by stating that we needed a 'shift in thinking' and a 'shift in attitude'.

Dave Mech (<http://www.davemech.org>) was of course a large presence at the seminar. Humble as ever, he admitted that his book *The Wolf*, published in 1968, is now outdated.

'I didn't know any better,' he admitted. 'Still, a wolf is a wolf is a

wolf'. Should there be five species, or even only four? One species, thought to be a wolf in Africa, is actually a jackal. He also reminded us that the 'alpha' theory is outmoded, better to refer to the 'breeding pair'. The wolf gets to the top by breeding, not fighting. Mature males and a large pack seem to indicate that a pack will be more successful. By seven years old, all females in a pack will have bred in the wild and 33-58% of females breed in any one given years. Male stepfathers will often step in and feed the pups. (see our interview with Dave Mech on page 17)

The Trust's Kirsty Peake (http://www.peakeservices.co.uk/of_wolves_and_dogs.php) gave an excellent presentation about the UKWCT, which included information about the impressive donations to projects

worldwide. She also made us stand up and be applauded, for which we may never forgive her!

Cinematographer Bob Landis (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1867906/>) showed two narrative films about the White Alpha Female of Yellowstone's Hayden Pack. We also saw bears guarding kill with ravens hopping and hoping for strands of meat, a plucky little coyote defending her pups and her cubs then tumbling clumsily around their dens. The line of baby bears standing up like meerkats to sniff the wind made everyone smile.

Lori Schmidt (<http://www.wolf.org>) from the International Wolf Center in Minnesota gave a live Skype video with her socialised wolves. Unfortunately, the sound was erratic. However, seeing a wolf have his belly scratched never gets old.

Finally on the Saturday nature writer Jim Crumley (<https://jimcrumley.wordpress.com>) read excerpts from his book *'The Last Wolf'*. Jim is



Wolf Awareness

Weekend

championing the romantic elements of wolf reintroduction and on Sunday, he was frequently challenged over the science/reality of the whole concept.

Carter Niemeyer (<http://www.carterniemeyer.com>) talked on coexistence and depredation over the weekend. Carter is a retired government trapper and Idaho wolf recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Interestingly, he hinted that farmers and ranchers love to have a collective whine about wolves but some secretly have learned to live alongside them. He often spends his time 'kicking cow poop around with ranchers'. It is usually an emotional event when Carter comes to visit but he has to be calm and logical to assess 'what kind of a problem do we have here?' Wolves are polarising.

Dave Mech discussed non-lethal methods included fencing, fierce guard dog breeds like Akbash and Komandor, range riders, turbo fladry and cowbells.

Howling is 'the mobile phone of the wolf world'.

On Sunday, many of us were impressed with a great presentation by Sabina Nowak, from Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (<http://www.lcie.org>), talking about wolves



Max, Lawrie, Dave by Graeme Bell

in the Baltic, Carpathians and Central European Lowlands. There are 600 wolves in 22,600 km² in the east and 900 wolves in 39,000 km² in western Poland – encouraging statistics. Red deer, roe deer and wild boar all roam free; ungulate density seems to be increasing. The thriving wolf recolonisation of Western Poland is quite logical – it's a good habitat with 49% forest cover. In 2014/15 – at a conservative estimate, there were 31 wolf packs, three mating pairs and several loners. Eastern Poland is also increasing its numbers.

Sabina's facts and figures were interesting: 60% of wolf deaths

were male and 35% of female – 63 of which were by collisions and 26 by poachers. Sabina later told me that the perception of hunting has changed in the country – it is not considered beneficial. Perhaps that 'shift in attitude' that Maxwell noted.

A wolf diet in the region includes:
43% – roe deer
23% – wild boar
22% – red deer

plus a supplementary diet of:
2.7% fallow deer
2.5% brown hare
1% beaver
1% domestic animal



Wolf Awareness seminar speakers by Graeme Bell



us that locals often spat out the word conservationist like a swear word.

Most tellingly, despite some horrific losses, Troy said that before the animal came back 'that thing that was missing was the wolf'. We may consider animals stock but for an 80 year old woman surviving in the French mountains with only five sheep, if she loses her 'stock' she loses everything, including her ability to feed herself through a harsh winter.

The discussion panel on the Sunday about Scottish reintroduction was one of the chewier elements of the weekend and included Troy Bennett, Jim Crumley and Mike Daniels from the John Muir Trust (<http://www.johnmuirtrust.org>). Questions were raised about pack size to be reintroduced, dispersal and how much land would be required. Do we have a responsibility to repay a debt to nature? How do we may it happen? How would you manage a breeding programme so they are not inbred? These were knotty questions with no neat answers - a dialogue that has a long way to go, both for those who are pro introduction and for other, more cautious folk.

The weekend was concluded with Dave Mech's talk about a remarkable 57 years in lupine research. It had been good for the Trust to have a presence, ask questions and also answer them at our stand. Food for thought.

Julia Bohanna



Kirsty by Graeme Bell



Carter by Graeme Bell

▶ Sabrina concluded that 'transportation, isolation and urbanisation were the biggest threat to wolves. Hence the successful introduction of ecological corridors and overpasses.

We saw camera-trapped footage at a den site and a cub calling her playmates in the forest. Howling is, as Sabina noted, 'the mobile phone of the wolf world'.

'Living with people is bloody difficult' Shepherd/goatherd Troy Bennett gave us practical realities with a moving, fascinating and sometimes emotional talk about living with the wolf as it returned to the French Pyrenees, a unique situation for any herder in

which to find themselves. 'A wolf is pragmatic' he told us, 'They go on. Living with wolves is difficult but living with people is bloody difficult.' He told



Photograph by Graeme Bell

Photograph by Graeme Bell

Interview with Dave Mech, wolf biologist, Edinburgh 20th September 2015

By Julia Bohanna

What was your very earliest memory, feeling or compulsion to work with these animals (wolves)?

I was asked to do it by Durward Allen of Purdue University. He had a big grant to study the wolves of Isle Royale. I was always interested in large carnivores - I was an undergraduate student and basically was just into my senior year at Cornell and still planning my graduate work. I was thinking I would probably work with coyotes or something ...he came along and I jumped from coyotes to wolves right away. Obviously I was interested in wolves but I never dreamed there was a chance I would ever work with them. The closest I ever came was just seeing coyotes, so it was just a matter of chance when he said wolves - it was like someone saying lions or something...once I started working with them and I was so challenged by them, I was very intrigued to see how they make a living. I just stayed with it for 57 years.

What a joy to make the thing you love, your career?

It's been great. I'm actually 13/14 years past full retirement ...of course I won't retire.

You talked about the Isle Royale wolves. I've heard arguments that nature brought them there, maybe we should let nature just let them go. What do you think?

That's the way I feel and I don't want to necessarily give all the credit to nature for that. I have to say there's a selfish scientific reason ...we have so much of the science on the history on that island for that population. We need to see it to the end. When the powers to be want to start a new population, it will be very easy, so why intervene now? I would wait and see what happens... there have been a couple of people who have been concerned about the population for about 15 or 20 years. If we had done anything 10 or 15 years ago it would change the whole science of the thing.

If we're talking of creatures dying out, the red wolf and the Mexican wolf really are in danger of not being here any more.

The Mexican wolf really is just another kind of grey wolf as opposed to the red wolf being recognised at least as a separate species. With the Mexican

wolf, there have even been arguments made that it is not really any different from the rest of the grey wolves. The second factor is that the Mexican wolf is doing very well right now ...there's over a 100 of them. Their population has reached that point when we can expect them to multiply very quickly. The curve will start to sweep up - that's just a guess; I have no inside information. There were 109 last year. Officially, that means a minimum of 109 in the wild. My guess is that there'll be over 125 this coming year. It's just doing really well but the red wolf is in real trouble because of the breeding with coyotes.

What's the solution?

I don't know - what endangered the red wolf to begin with is interbreeding with coyotes. When they started the red wolf introduction, they started in a place where there were no coyotes at the time, so it seemed to be fairly safe for the wolf. Since that time coyotes



Dan McNulty by Dave Mech

▶ have invaded that area, they are now doing the same thing coyotes did in Texas, so I suspect that in the long run the red wolf is going to be kind of hybridised with coyotes. It will be a different creature.

The reintroduction in Yellowstone has been held up as a success story and used as an argument for introducing wolves in Scotland, as discussed today. I think the space is an issue. You don't know all the facts at the moment – none of us do as yet. But what do you think?

I certainly don't think you have the space here we have in Yellowstone. By that that I mean the totally natural space without a lot of human interference. That's where the problem is. Biologically, you could put a bunch of wolves here and they would live fine; it's just that they would get into a lot of trouble with humans.

It would only take one incident and the whole of wolf conservation would be pushed back, wouldn't it?

Oh yeah - whereas in Yellowstone there are dispersers in the park. There's been a lot of ifs ands and buts we had not counted on lawsuits - that changed things. Basically we let the wolves fill Yellowstone and various other wilderness areas. Lawsuits prevented the wolf from being delisted when they reached 300. It was too late to control them - they're spreading all over now which personally I like, but professionally it's a real problem. I would not have prescribed it professionally.

If you had to choose another animal that fascinates you what would it be?

Mink.

That wasn't what I was expecting at all!

It turns out – your readers won't like this - but I am a mink trapper. I've trapped mink most of my life - I'm so intrigued by them. They are very hard



Shannon Barber-Meyer

to study because they are so small. Even to catch them to put a radio on them is pretty hard and secondly it would be a tiny radio. You don't get much range so the way I've learned what I can about them is through fur trapping, which is kind of a stealthy thing where you look at their tracks and their trails in the grass and you see how they live. I could really get into studying mink.

You have lots and lots of interests but what would you like your legacy to be - if people asked what do you think of Dave Mech? What would you like people to say about you?

(pauses) If I had another life entirely, I would like to work in social justice. That is something I almost did after I finished my PhD. I thought *the whole world's falling apart*. This was 1962 – *and I'm studying wolves!* So actually I quit the field and took another year of college after my PhD to study human-related courses, thinking I would change fields.

Then I got so disillusioned with everything because you really can't change human nature. At the same time, I had a family that was growing and I was living on a salary that was half of what I could make if I just got a job. So I just got a job and I've just had a real happy life. My legacy? I've learned a lot of about wolves I guess (laughs).

I know what you mean when you look at the world and think oh what a mess

If we could just control our numbers and climate change itself is scary – human population makes it worse all the way along.

You've taught other people – you have lots of people you mentor

With my own project in Minnesota we ran for many many years I had 16 wildlife technicians per year, so there's literally hundreds of technicians. Not all went into wildlife but I can point to any number that are.

Do you have any one particular person that you think is going to be a force to be reckoned with in conservation?

Two people who immediately come to mind are Dan MacNulty and Shannon Barber-Meyer. Dan works in Yellowstone National Park and was my Master's student, and I co-advised on his Ph.D work. Shannon was my Ph.D student in Yellowstone and currently works with me in Minnesota. Both have great publication records. Dan is taking over the Ellesmere work, and Shannon is poised to assume the wolf-deer study in the Superior National Forest of Minnesota.

Thank you for being so generous with your time.

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Guess Who's Coming for DINNER?

Children's Responses to a Picturebook Wolf

Images by permission Templar Publishing

For centuries, the wolf has played its part in traditional stories told amongst communities across the globe, and passed from one generation to the next. Contemporary picturebooks offer new and diverse representations of the wolf and can subvert traditional folktale motifs. Picturebooks are commonly seen as reading material only for the very young, though the benefits associated with older children's reading of complex picturebooks include pleasure and motivation in reading, and development of intellectual and aesthetic responses.

My own project took place in a primary school in Greater London, with six children aged ten and eleven. To begin with, these children shared their impressions of the wolf in folktales and reality, describing them as 'sly predators, wild creatures, living in forests, where they can hide easily'. For them, the commonplace idiom, "wolf it down" references this animal because "that's what wolves are like, starving hungry and ravenous: they eat quickly": this shows how everyday language reinforces stereotypes that are often taken to be the true behaviour of wolves.

Following this discussion, the children took turns to read aloud to one other *Guess Who's Coming for Dinner?* a picturebook by John Kelly and Cathy Tincknell. This tells the story of Horace and Glenda Pork-Fowler, a pig and a goose, who accept a mysterious invitation to a weekend of fine dining. Unbeknown to them, they are the

gourmet food, and their host happens to be a wolf. This picturebook is unusual since the words tell one story and the illustrations show another: Horace narrates his and Glenda's experience in diary form; at the same time, the reader sees the wolf spying upon the unsuspecting couple, visible in each picture but not explicitly identified by the words in the text. Therefore, readers are not presented with a straightforward reading experience; instead, there are several reading pathways, challenging due to their non-linearity and the numerous perspectives in voice, illustrations and content.

HUNTER'S NOTE

Upon arriving at Eatum Hall, the Pork-Fowlers find that Hunter has left a note addressed to them. In reading this, the children recognised clues in the language which enabled them to appreciate underlying meanings and irony in the wolf's intentions.

Emma: It says 'meat' as in the meat you eat, instead of 'I will meet you personally'.

James: It says 'A opportunity such as this can only occur once in any lifetime'... it could mean that the wolf

will eat them, and that's their life over!

Hannah: And, 'Your very special fiend' instead of 'friend'.

Irayna: Like he's the enemy!

Matthew: The wolf is good with his spelling. He's doing it on purpose... very sneaky!

Irayna: But the Pork-Fowlers think Hunter 'can't spell for toffee'.

Emma: It's a huge clue!

Irayna: It says 'eat, drink and be merry', so he's telling them to eat more, but that's just so they'll get fatter and he'll have more meat

Emma: He is evil and hungry!

COOKERY BOOKS

Later on, Horace Pork-Fowler visits the kitchen for a midnight snack. The children delighted in reading aloud Hunter's cookery book titles, appreciating alliteration, pun and rhyme, and they noticed how the recipes reflect this wolf as a relentless yet comical villain.

Emma: Hunter has been reading all these cookery books, preparing to cook the pig and the goose!

Matthew: Yeah, 'Cook your Goose'... They're definitely in trouble. Their goose is cooked!



Oliver: 'Meals that Squeal' and 'Get Stuffed'!

Irayna: They're funny. A lot of them rhyme... 'Let's Talk Pork'!

James: 'Fattening Friends'! On the other page there was a poster saying 'Pie Feast this Sunday: Wolf it down!'. I think the wolf will kill the fattened pig and goose, then he'll put them in a pie and eat them!

Hannah: It says 'no power in the kitchen', but the fridge is working...

Irayna: There has to be some light otherwise the pig wouldn't be able to see clearly... all that food!

Oliver: Oh, I know what the wolf's done! The main light is not on because there might be loads of secret stuff about how to cook the pig and goose, which the wolf doesn't want them to see, but he *does* want the pig to find the fridge and eat more. So the *fridge* has been lit up.

Matthew: Like heaven... Food heaven!

WOLF PIE

By revisiting the book, details within the pages gained fresh relevance and contributed to a fuller response towards the wolf's scheme. Although the characters were oblivious as to what was really happening, the children knew all about Hunter's trap; this empowered them to create a convincing back-story leading up to the final events.

James: In the picture you can see pie-crust under the top of the bandstand.

Matthew: I think something will release, and the roof will drop down on those two.

Oliver: No, actually what's happening is... look... it's dropping on the wolf.

Emma: Oh! Hunter is being cooked... he's going up the ladder into the tin. Then the contraption works... but instead of the pig and goose being caught, it's Hunter!

Oliver: It says 'searched for Hunter but couldn't find him'... He was trapped underneath!

Irayna: But the pig or the goose don't even realise!

Hannah: On the earlier pages there's



a 'Bed-o-Scales' to show if the pig is heavy enough... if he's ready to eat!

Oliver: And the wolf is hiding under the trap door!

Emma: The dial is *just* on the line of being too heavy... it says here, on the wolf's blueprint, 'DANGER! Filling should not exceed recommended weight'.

Irayna: Oh no, the arrow is near the red! Unless the wolf eats him soon, he might be too heavy. He'll need to go on a diet!



Matthew: But the pig ate too much, so the machine broke!

Hannah: And the Pork-Fowlers left earlier than the wolf expected.

James: [Reads] 'I wonder what sort of pie they're having?'

Matthew: Wolf pie! Look, there's an empty seat for him! That's the wolf's family, the rest of his pack.

Hannah: They're eating the pie, but they don't know Hunter is inside!

Irayna: Poor wolf... I've realised he's not going to get what he wants...

REFLECTIONS

Hunter's incompetence and ultimate

undoing evoked genuine empathy and challenged the children's initial impressions of the wolf as a fearsome predator. Despite his well-laid plans and self-portrayal as a criminal mastermind, the children knew that Hunter never posed a serious threat, because his plot to eat his guests was wholly exaggerated and the source of much humour. *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* is a complex picturebook which demands a substantial degree of openness, flexibility, and awareness in its audience, and the children responded to this with confidence and creativity.

In Britain, where wild wolves have not been seen for hundreds of years and have instead existed largely in our imaginations, there are now calls for "rewilding", which aims to reintroduce real wolves into certain parts of the country. Given that a new organisation has just been launched, whose work will be to restore British nature to its former glory (Rewilding Britain Charity, 2015), it is pertinent to ask what this means for the future of *Canis lupus* and our relationship with it, both in reality and in literature. Children should be introduced to representations of the story-wolf, so they are well-equipped to interpret and critique them, and so they may appreciate the continued significance of the wolf within our real and literary worlds.

Kerenza Ghosh

Kerenza Ghosh is Senior Lecturer in English Education at the University of Roehampton. She has written two published chapters about children's responses to picturebooks featuring the wolf. Her ongoing research interests include picturebooks and reader response with children. Contact details: k.ghosh@roehampton.ac.uk



United States Fish and Wildlife Service on Notice for Failing to Protect Red Wolves

The Red Wolf Coalition and two other conservation organizations have notified the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of their intent to sue the agency for failure to protect and restore the world's only wild population of red wolves.

Filed on September 1, 2015 by the Southern Environmental Law Center, the “60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue” letter alleges that the USFWS violated the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) by authorizing a private landowner to kill a breeding red wolf female, one of only 50 to 75 known red wolves remaining in the wild. This current population estimate is a precipitous decline from last year, when approximately 100 red wolves lived in the five-county recovery region in northeastern North Carolina.

For thousands of years, red wolves ranged throughout most of the eastern and south-central United States. By the mid-20th Century, government-sponsored predator control programs and habitat loss had all but wiped out the Southeast’s top predator. By the time red wolves gained protection under the ESA, their social structure was irreparably warped by the dual stresses of human persecution and depressed population levels from interbreeding with coyotes.

In a bold and desperate attempt to save these elusive predators from extinction, the USFWS live-trapped the last wild red wolves and initiated a captive breeding program. This pioneering effort was successful; the first red wolves were reintroduced to the wild in northeastern North Carolina in 1987.

“The RWC and the other plaintiffs have asked the federal court to halt the issuing of take authorizations to private landowners, a violation of the ESA.”

The population grew slowly and steadily, and by 2006, an estimated 130 wild red wolves occupied 1.7 million acres of public and private land in the recovery region. To appease some landowners who objected to the presence of red wolves on their property, the USFWS field biologists used non-lethal methods to remove and relocate the animals at the landowner’s request. The only justification for a landowner’s killing a red wolf was self-defense or a formal declaration by the USFWS that it had “abandoned” efforts to remove unwanted wolves.

In the late 2000s, the wild population plummeted to an estimated 50 to 75 wolves. The number of breeding pairs (more than 15 prior to 2012) declined to only eight by 2013. Red wolves were being shot. The worst mortality occurred during a four-week period in autumn 2014 when six adult red wolves were killed.

The effect of gunshot mortality is especially devastating during breeding season; the death of one wolf in a mated pair increases the possibility that the surviving mate will interbreed with a resident coyote if it cannot find a red wolf mate. Coyotes, once

absent from the eastern USA, are now endemic throughout all regions east of the Mississippi River. Although red wolves are much larger than coyotes, some wolf gunshot deaths were ascribed by the shooters as “mistaken identity.” In most of the USA, there is “open season” on shooting coyotes, widely regarded as varmints and pests. “I thought it was a coyote,” avoids prosecution for killing a federally-listed endangered red wolf.

Determined to halt the killing, last year the RWC and others succeeded in obtaining a federal injunction against coyote hunting in red wolf country. But the Southeast Regional Office of the USFWS has abdicated its responsibility to further the recovery of red wolves, by making management strategies difficult or impossible to implement for the Red Wolf Recovery Program. The agency has issued two take (kill) authorizations to private landowners and ended further red wolf reintroductions pending further study of the Program.

The RWC and the other plaintiffs have asked the federal court to halt the issuing of take authorizations to private landowners, a violation of the ESA. How this will play out is uncertain, but the USFWS has until November 1, 2015 to respond to the Notice-of-Intent letter. If they do not, the agency will be formally sued in federal court.

The pending litigation is a radical but necessary action from red wolf advocates who are committed to saving this iconic wolf from extinction in the wild. As an International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)’s red-listed species, the red wolf belongs to all. It is reassuring to have the UKWCT as a firm and loyal ally.

Cornelia N. Hutt
Chair of the Red Wolf Coalition Board of Directors and patron of the UKWCT





Welcome to predatorland

Olmhult in Sweden re-named by angry farmers

Years after dying out, the wolf is back in Varmland in Sweden, causing conflict between tradition and conservation, pitching farmers and hunters against environmentalists and European officials.



In the 1980s, the first pair of wolves arrived from Finland or Russia. Years later a third wolf appeared and then around 2007-2008, two more arrived according to Magnus Bergstrom, deputy director of the national environment division at the Swedish ministry of the environment and energy. The population is descended from just five animals and prone to genetic defects produced by inbreeding - a big concern to environmentalists.

The government allowed a cull in 2010 - the first in decades. Mr Bergstrom said that Sweden's wolf population was extremely well monitored, and that culls targeted animals with poor genes. "We have DNA from around 90% of the wolves. It is often said that this is the best monitored wolf population in the

Western world"

The Swedish wolf population is still relatively small - about 415. Although the government compensates farmers for losses from wolf attacks on their livestock, and subsidises protective fencing, farmers argue that it is not enough and the money does not compensate for their full losses or the anxiety and disruption to their lives.

Hunters say that the wolves are decimating the animals that the hunters pursue, causing harm to the hunting traditions and scaring the country folk. Hunters shot 17,500 moose in Varmland in 1983, but only 4,200 last year. The wolves had killed around 4,000 moose stated Gunnar Gloerson, game manager for the Swedish Hunters' Association. He went on to say

that hunting is an important tradition in Varmland and it is now under threat.

The officials criticise the way Sweden has conducted recent, annual, wolf hunts. They say that Sweden has not satisfactorily considered other alternatives and it has failed to show that its culls do not pose a threat to the wolves' long term survival. The officials went on to say that the government in Stockholm could be taken to court if it fails to convince Brussels that its methods are justified. Per Dunberg, a spokesman for the Wolf Association Sweden, who says that the wolf population should number from 1,500-3,000.

Source: Stephen Castle, New York Times-Europe



Some good news (at last) from Idaho Numbers *are* increasing

Idaho had 770 wolves in the state at the end of 2014, an estimate released recently by the Department of Fish and Game.

That's up from 2013's estimate of 659 but cattle and sheep depredations by wolves dropped. The annual wolf monitoring report showed wolf numbers remain well above the 150 wolves and 15 breeding pairs required to keep gray wolves off the endangered species list under the 2009 delisting rule Congress used when it removed the wolves in 2011.

Biologists documented 104 wolf packs in Idaho at the end of 2014. Another 23 packs were counted by Montana, Wyoming, and Washington that had established territories overlapping the Idaho state boundary.

Determination of breeding pair status was made for 43 packs. Of these, 26 packs met breeding pair criteria at the end of 2014, and 17 packs did not. No determination of breeding pair status was made for the remaining 61 packs, the agency said.

Hunters and trappers harvested 256 wolves in 2014, 100 fewer than in 2013. Fewer total wolves were killed in response to depredations on livestock and predation on big game populations in 2014, with 67 wolves taken, 27 wolves less than during 2013.

Average pack size was 6.5 wolves at the end of 2014, higher than the 5.4 wolves in 2013, but smaller than the 8.1 wolves per pack average during the three years prior to the establishment of hunting and trapping seasons in 2009. Nineteen wolf deaths were attributed to other human causes, and two to natural causes. The causes of 16 wolf mortalities could not be determined and were listed as unknown.

The number of cattle and sheep lost to wolf depredation was below the average of the last ten years, as was the number of wolves killed in response to depredations. During 2014, 43 cattle, 103 sheep, three dogs and one horse were confirmed as wolf kills. Ten cattle, seven sheep, and one dog were classified as probable wolf depredations.

Source: Rocky Barker in Idaho Statesman

Wolf pups in Bükk

There have already been signals of a permanent wolf population in the Bükk National Park in Hungary, but the first video of recently born pups has just emerged. The national park administration has been running a wolf monitoring programme for years. Finally they have managed to prove the existence of five pups this year through camera trapping.

In order to guarantee protection of the wolves, administration contacted stakeholder, especially the representatives of the hunting

associations. They called their attention to the fact that wolf is a protected species in Hungary. Hopefully the monitoring and research of the wolf population will help to dispel the current negative perceptions of wolf (more information about the wolf pack and the news is available on the website of Bükk National Park in Hungarian) <http://wilderness-society.org/wolf-pups-grows-in-bukk/>

Source: Zoltan Kun, European Wilderness Society



Voices raised against the proposed wolf cull in British Columbia

The B.C. government has said it needs to cull the wolf population in the southern Interior to protect a herd of endangered caribou, but conservationists such as Pacific Wild director Ian McAllister say the real problem is the loss of viable habitat for caribou.

The government also says the number of the grizzlies killed by hunters each year is managed at sustainable levels, but conservationists dispute the hunt and say it is cruel and unsustainable.

“The government of British Columbia is waging war on wildlife, and it should come as no surprise that their policies

are garnering international scrutiny and condemnation,” said McAllister.

High profile dissenters Miley Cyrus and Pamela Anderson have both spoken out against the proposed wolf cull.

Cyrus and her brother Braison were recently on a bear-watching tour on the Central Coast of British Columbia that was hosted by the conservation group Pacific Wild. The trip came after Cyrus caused a stir on social media when she endorsed Pacific Wild’s petition to stop the wolf cull. Premier Christy Clark responded that Cyrus should stick to twerking (a provocative dance move she made famous) and

leave the wolf cull alone.

“I knew in my heart that the wolf cull was wrong,” said Miley. “But after this visit, I know science is on my side, not just on the wolf cull, but also on the trophy hunt issue. Both are unsustainable and both are horrific. Both have to end.”

Pamela Anderson’s requests for a meeting with Christy Clark have been met with silence.

Source: CBC News



The Mexican Wolf: How science and common sense may help Canis Lupus Baileyi

All you need is *not* to kill – A grant to explore non-lethal forms of management may help the Mexican Wolf population

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will award more than a quarter-million dollars to Arizona and New Mexico wildlife agencies, designed to develop nonlethal methods of protection of Mexican gray wolves and livestock.

The Wolf Livestock Demonstration Project will allow ranchers to monitor wolf movements with radio telemetry equipment. Electric fences will be used to keep the endangered gray wolves and other predators away from cattle, sheep and other herds. Animal carcasses will be used to divert wolves away

from livestock. The grant also includes forty thousand dollars to compensate ranchers for confirmed livestock kills.

Officials with the Arizona Game and Fish Department say over the last two months there have been at least five cows killed by gray wolves in eastern Arizona and New Mexico. Depredation

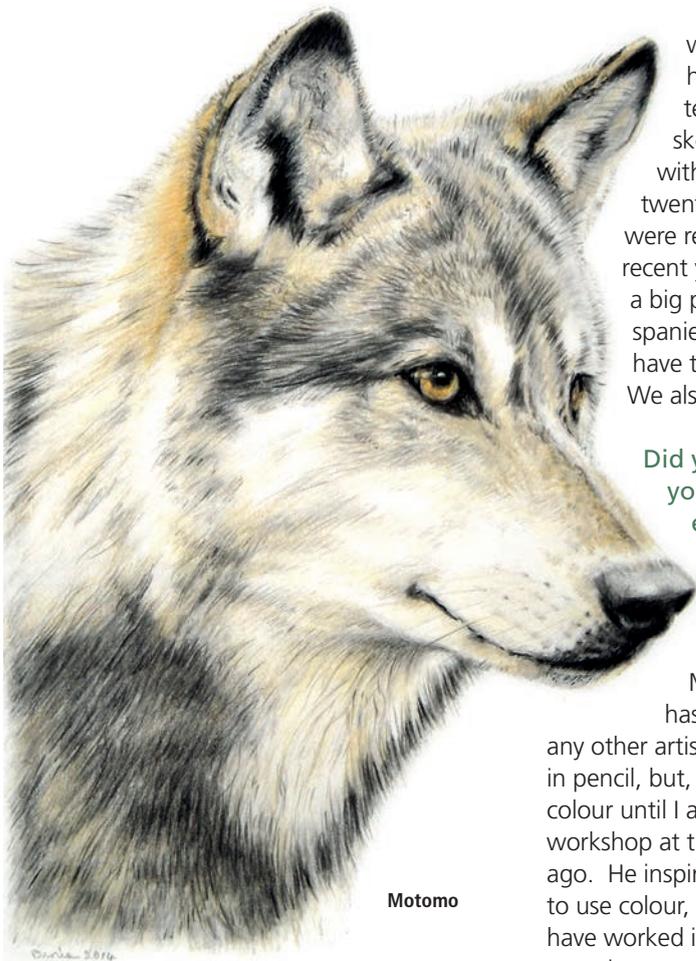
has been an ongoing issue for ranchers since the beginning of the Mexican gray wolf recovery program.

At last count there were 110 roaming eastern Arizona and New Mexico.

Source: Ryan Heinsius, Twin Observer



Interview with Onnie Burford-Roe, artist



Motomo

who had a working horse or two. In my teens, I bought my lovely skewbald cob who was with me until he died over twenty years later, so horses were really my first love. In recent years dogs have played a big part in my life - springer spaniels in particular, as we just have the two at the moment. We also have eight chickens!

Did you always have artists you admired, wanted to emulate?

I have always loved the art of David Shepherd and Pip McGarry but Vic Bearcroft has inspired me more than any other artist. I had always worked in pencil, but, never ventured into colour until I attended Vic's first pastel workshop at the Trust a few years ago. He inspired me that day to use colour, so thanks to Vic, I have worked in coloured pencil ever since.

When, while doing something you loved, did you realise that you could turn into a business?

When friends started asking me to do portraits of their pets, and they insisted on paying me for doing it!

When was your first contact with the Trust and how did your further connections with us – as an artist – come about?

In 2002 I adopted "Lunca" as a birthday present for my husband. When I received the adoption pack, I sent Roger one of my wolf design cards as a thank you. He phoned me a few days later and asked

if I could do portraits of the Trust's wolves. Of course I agreed, as I love drawing wolves. I started with "Lunca" and have done portraits of all the other wolves since then, reproducing them as cards, key rings, tea towels and bone china mugs for the Trust.

Do you have a Trust wolf, living or dead, that you liked most as a subject – and why?

"Lunca" was always my favourite as I did her portrait first. My favourites now are "Mosi" and "Mai" as their coats have changed colour so dramatically over the years that I'm now on my third portraits of them, it's a different challenge every time.

Where do you hope you go now with your art?

I love drawing and just want to carry on with it for as long as people like my artwork and ask me to do portraits of their pets. Plus the Trust wolves of course!

www.onniesart.co.uk

I believe you are self-taught. Did you find this a difficult route and how did you discipline yourself in all aspects of art? How did you learn each element?

I have been drawing animals for as long as I can remember. My father was really good at painting birds, so I suppose it's just something that came naturally to me. To this day I really can't explain how I complete a pencil drawing, I certainly wouldn't be any good as an art teacher!

Were animals something you gravitated towards?

Always. I have lived in Devon from eleven years old but was born in a village in Somerset, surrounded by dogs, cats, rabbits and various farm animals. In the early 1950s there were still a couple of farmers in the village



Mosi



A Fairytale in Question

Historical Interactions Between Humans and Wolves

Various authors - edited by Patrick Masius and Jana Sprenger

Publisher: White Horse Press

Hardcover 328pp

RRP £60 ISBN-10: 1874267847

If a wolf attacked someone in 2015, what would be the likelihood that the attack would be blamed on a dead landlord with an attitude problem haunting a chimney, who is disturbed and uprooted by a child chimneysweep, rages with anger at having the cleaning equipment poked up his ethereal behind and is possessed by a ghost and seeks revenge on the local village? Thankfully, not likely.

The front cover/title gives the impression that this book may concentrate on folklore, local knowledge and historical accounts. The reality is a bit different. There are some incredibly interesting chapters which concentrate on subjects such as: 'The story of a Man-eating Beast in Dauphine, France (1746-1756)'. Sadly for every interesting chapter, there seems to be a follow up chapter that goes in a different direction. It doesn't flow in a way that makes the reader want to carry on reading. Each chapter is written by a different author/set of authors.

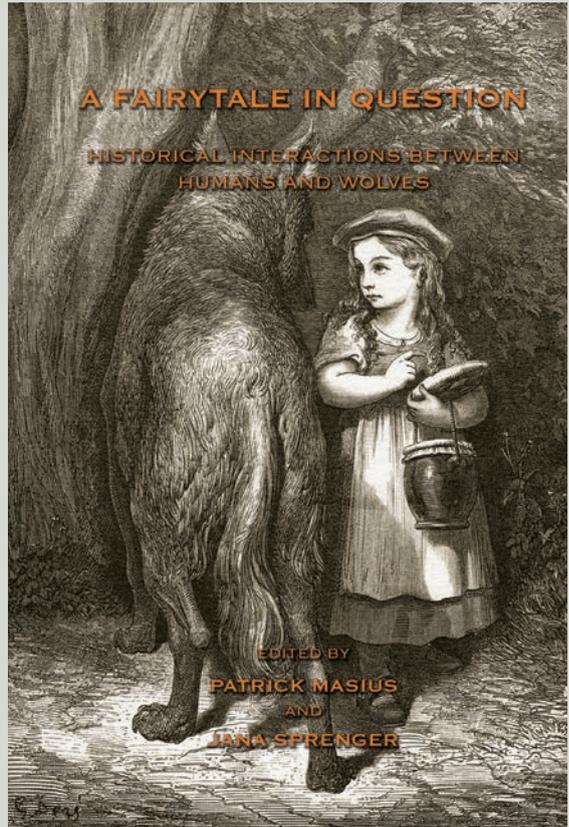
There are some great insights into how wolves were dealt with by people historically: if somebody was accused of being a werewolf (a fairly common occurrence in medieval Europe) they would be killed then a wolf would be captured, dressed in human clothing and mask attached to its face and hanged. The corpse was left suspended until it decayed and the bones hit the floor. Werewolves were thought to be demons; the way to banish a demon was to destroy it above the ground.

However, some interesting parts of 'A Fairytale in Question' concentrate

on things we can all relate to. People today who live alongside the wolf have more of an understanding of them than those in urban environments. Internationally, city children, who have no native wolves, most fear of the species. The exception is modern America, where the animal is a political issue rather than a symbol of fear.

As each chapter concentrates on differing topics, it's hard to give a complete overview. Some chapters look into historical evidence of wolf attacks, including death records, written personal accounts and gravestones. Other chapters look at differing images in National Geographic's database over the last century, analysing positive/negative images. Amongst these chapters are some specific topics which to me, felt a little out of place. Although learning about the political and social side of people living in close proximity to wolves in Alaska is interesting, it was filled with a lot of irrelevant information - unless you live there and are interested in historical legislation. Another chapter focused on wolves in American literature; although some truly great authors/books were mentioned, I personally found it hard to plough through. I preferred other chapters.

Each chapter taught me something new though: for example, wolf attacks on people are incredibly rare but such reports have been coming



in from Tibet for some time now. Scientists have formulated two ideas: firstly that the Tibetan wolf may be a more aggressive subspecies of wolf, which seems unlikely but still possible. The second that trophy hunters have drastically lowered the numbers of prey animals naturally hunted by the Tibetan wolf, forcing wolves in bad winters to search for other food - this seems more likely. Also, these more memorable chapters looked deeply into whether such accounts are taken seriously by scientific communities and whether there is a bias towards these accounts being taken seriously or disregarded as local knowledge/ regional scare stories, with photographic evidence.

A Fairytale in Question is essentially a collection of studies and essays rather than complete flowing chapters. There are also more graphs and data charts than photographs. Not a book for everybody, as it can be an intense read based upon scientific study. However if the reader expects this and is interested in the topics, each is well written and engaging.

Mike Collins



Wolf Winter

Cecilia Ekbäck

Published by Hodder & Stoughton

Hardcover 408pp

RRP £14.99 ISBN: 978-0-464-78951-5

It is Sweden in 1717 and a new settler to Blackåsen is trying to survive at a time of upheaval and threat to the whole country. When one of Maija's daughters finds a dead man, there are mutterings that it was a wolf or a bear attack. Maija knows better and her daughter Fredrika is then haunted by spirits animal and human. They both search for truth but magic holds out a chill hand to Fredrika, enticing her to the old ways.

The church is also a strange and disturbing force in the community; the priest wants answers too. Even the church building itself is '...too white. It doesn't belong.' Weather and landscape, Hardy-esque style, has character of its own, where colour invading the snowy starkness comes in the forceful guise of a powerfully resonant season: 'Late autumn this year had violence in her hair, angry crimson, orange and yellow...'. When the harsh Wolf Winter rolls in, human behaviour deviates. People suffer. There have been strange and archaic punishments meted out, such as the whore stool. The bishop is deliciously described as a cat licking its paw. But are real culprits, of serious crimes,

getting away with more?

This is one gloriously unsettling book, a novel to be read in a warm house with your flesh and blood loved ones fed and safe around you. The spectre of starvation is so realistically evoked, it's tangible. As is the mysterious landscape. A pronouncement by one character that 'if you hold to reason, you will be safe' is a reference to magic, deviating from faith. Should gifts of 'healing' be used? Questions that hang in the cold air are wrapped in 'unending darkness' and the threat of death, as the harshest of winter – the wolf winter – begins to bite. Even when it lifts and the binding ice supporting the houses starts to sag and lean, skeletal truths are exposed.

The wolves in the book weave through as enigmatic entities, seen

'Wolf winter,' she said,
her voice small. 'The kind of winter
that reminds us we are mortal.
Mortal and alone.'

'Fans of *The Miniaturist* will love it'
Grazia

CECILIA EKBÄCK

WOLF WINTER

'Beautiful prose...tremendous'
Guardian

'Compelling, suspenseful...'
The Sunday Times

to only the chosen. Some things can not be seen, captured or understood. They represent fears, the subconscious mind. Mountains. Shadows. Mist. Some readers might be frustrated that the plot takes its time but Ekbäck is a skilled writer who imbues breath and complexity into her characters. Trust me, it will stay with you, with an icy hand on your shoulder, for a very long time.

WILD WOLF EXPERIENCE
wildlife tours in northern Spain

Track wolves and wild boar with our expert friendly guides.
Watch eagles, bustards and vultures in unspoilt rural Spain.

FOR EVERY TOUR BOOKED AS A RESULT OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT,
5% WILL BE DONATED TO THE UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST.

www.wildwolfexperience.com



The Battle for Yellowstone

Morality and The Sacred Roots of Environmental Conflict

Justin Farrell

Published by Princeton

Hardcover 291pp

RRP £19.57 ISBN: 978-0-691-16434-2

Conflict between the old west and new west in America's heart and intellect is very much at the core of Justin's Farrell's excellent book about Yellowstone. As lupine conservationists we may know the park's wolf debate intimately but this book concerns more than wolves. What gives humanity the right to claim to be the centre of the universe and then use that perceived superiority to plunder and tailor the planet for its own convenience?

The old west is something that is a strong defining characteristic of America, shaped by literary and filmic tradition. Think cowboys in denim and tough, rough pioneers. This world holds fast to valuing hard work, extraction of resources and transformation of the land. Then 'cappuccino cowboys' arrived and statistically, those who challenge the entrenched order are younger, better educated and more liberal.

What I admired most about this book – and I admired a great deal – is that it sought balance and did not present only one side of any



Justin Farrell

one of the array of complex arguments. It references the arrival of European-Americans, forced removal of tribes from native lands and the building of railroads but also pointed out that there is a great of romanticism about past settlers, who in their own way also 'aggressively managed resources'.

Ultimately, this scholarly and thoughtful book considers ways humans interact with Nature. Also, when people with differing views all consider themselves good, what does "good" mean? Farrell uses a trifold method of expressing moral visions of the old and new west:

1. Utilitarian

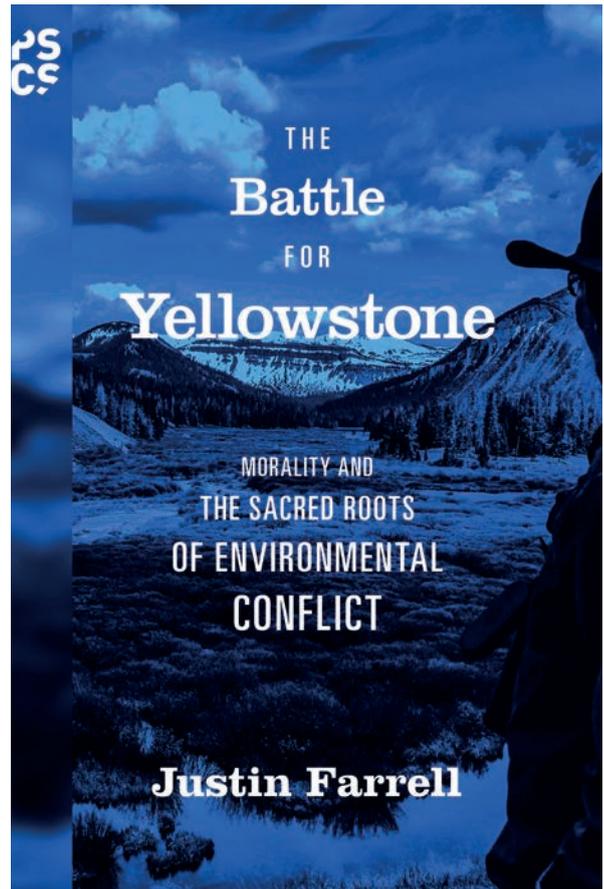
Elements that deal with ranching, mining and economic reality, such as taking from Nature. Ultimately, want and need. This is the 'extraction' of resources that is controversial to many in the light of knowledge and science.

2. Spiritual

Not necessarily religious but very much connected with quality of life, appreciation and capturing nature in artistic pursuits rather than physical ways. A great word which encapsulates this is 'reenchantment'.

3. Biocentric

Very much the new order, presenting evidence from a switched on, educated, research-based and science-heavy perspective.



Yellowstone is an interesting example to use for this philosophical and rationalist discussion, particularly on the knotty issue of bison killing. A picture from the 1870s of a mountain of bison skulls destined for fertiliser, illustrates this well. The chapter on the buffalo was fascinating – covering activism, the 'Buffalo Bill of Rights', sacred beliefs and the consideration that, in terms of an animal once hunted down to 23 animals, Yellowstone has the purest species (genetically speaking) of this shaggy prehistoric creature. If animals do not serve any purpose or get in the way of our plans, do we have the moral right to destroy them? Bison are also (unscientifically) blamed for a spreading brucellosis in cattle, despite a dearth of documented cases. Bison investigating a massacre of their own species were observed to be 'sparring, bumping, running, pawing and crying out in their deep emotion'. Anthromorphic? Perhaps. Yet it's hard not to see this as a wake.

Farrell covers a lot of ground: the history of the Yellowstone area, the

eventual foundation of a national park and how environmentalists have clashed with more conservative elements on the definition of wildness and wilderness. He uses quotes, letters and attitudinal analysis to illustrate his points. Much has changed since wolves were extirpated and tourists were allowed to feed the bears. Some of the factors are of course economic – Yellowstone has an astonishing array of geothermal features such as geysers and this has led to bio-prospecting sparked by discoveries unique to the region, such as a new organism found living in 160 degrees of the Lower Geyser Basin in 1965. Now with more

awareness, the impact of everything, even stress on wildlife caused by snowmobiles, is analysed. Lawsuits have abounded on both sides of the Yellowstone debate. Environmentalists have smart, alert lawyers.

The battle still rages. It took 20 years before 1995 to get wolves back into Yellowstone. Wolves represent a threat to that old west. Many say 'this wolf was dumped on us' or 'I'd love to let polar bears go in Golden Gate state park'. Posters showing guns and wolves with the slogan 'smoke a pack a day' show the strength of feeling within hunting/farming communities.

It is never quite as simple as the entrenched versus 'enlightened' conservationists. The thorny issue of fracking now has added yet another dimension.

There is far too much to dissect and praise in Farrell's fascinating study to detail here. It's a book to challenge our arrogance at creatures the top of the evolutionary heap and consider instead that we owe a debt to the plundered natural landscape. I would hope that humility, goodness and science are the best way forward but I would urge everyone to read this book and decide for themselves.



Review of *Wolf Totem* (film)

The background to Jean-Jacques Annaud's *Wolf Totem* could be a film in and of itself.

Formerly banned from China for *Seven Years in Tibet*, Annaud was approached by Chinese directors to adapt Jiang Rong's best-selling semi-autobiography for cinema, given his expertise with animals in *The Bear and Two Brothers*. Thirty socialised Mongolian wolves later, and China has submitted *Wolf Totem* for a Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award. But does it deserve acclaim for its portrayal of wolves?

From its opening shot of a wolf and moon rising together, the film paints the animal as a force of nature that's both beautiful and unforgiving, an impression also received by main character Chen Zen. Sent to "educate the nomads" in Mongolia during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the Chinese student soon finds his perception of faith, livelihood and of course wolves irrevocably changed. Initially afraid of the pack, he bears witness to and understands its key role in the grassland with the aid of village elder Bilig and a captured wolf cub. However, all is not well among the cartoonishly colourful grasses and blazing blue skies.



When the wolves' "winter larder" is stolen, leaving them starving, and their cubs are culled by the nomads, the pack brutally retaliates against the livestock. As for the nomads, they begin to see their home and culture fade away as the Chinese authorities increase farming efforts due to a countrywide famine. For his part, Chen Zen is conflicted by keeping a wolf cub captive while its wild relatives are persecuted.

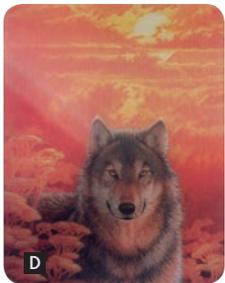
The Mongolian nomads and wolves are both victims and warriors driven out by the advance of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the implication being that we have lost our link with nature, which while brutal, maintains a healthy ecological balance. Taking a more positive diversion from the

book (reviewed in issue #55), the film offers a glimmer of hope for the future, highlighting that changing just one life for the better can make a difference.

Although they serve as a backdrop to Chen Zen's transformation - and the wolf cub is merely a side character - the wolves, stunning cinematography and noble score by the late great James Horner steal the show. This is a story where wolves are amoral and spiritual rather than either holy or hellish, their importance to the landscape is tragically undermined, and, thanks to one person, it is a cautionary tale where all is not necessarily lost.

Jessica Jacobs

Gifts, clothing and wolfy souvenirs



3D Magnet £2.50

A 3D Deluxebase magnet measures 9cm x 7cm. Available designs: A) Broken Silence, B) Autumn Encounter, C) In Harmony, D) Gaze, E) Baby Wolves Howling.



3D Blank Card £2.40

3D picture by American artist Collin Bogle. Two designs: A) Broken Silence and B) Baby Wolves Howling. Blank inside for your own message. One card supplied with envelope. Size 16cm x 15.5cm



Call of the Wild Mug £4.49

A boxed bone china mug of a howling wolf mug that is dishwasher and microwave safe.



Pewter Wolf Statue £12.50

A freestanding, solid pewter wolf statue - available in either a brightly polished or antique finish. Measures 51mm high and 48mm wide. Image is antique finish.



3D Notebook £2.60

A spiral-bound notebook. 60 blank white sheets. Size 10.5cm wide x 14.5cm height. Back cover blank. Three different designs: A) Gaze, B) Autumn Encounter, C) Baby Wolves Howling



Wolf Puppet £12.00

40cm full body puppet. Soft plush fur with detachable eyes.

To view and order any of these items and our other stationery, clothing, books, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at www.ukwolf.org or call 0118 971 3330.

Please note: all UK orders are subject to a minimum P&P charge of £4.50. For overseas orders, please contact us.

Motomo Xmas T-Shirt £16.00

A t-shirt designed exclusively for the Trust, featuring Motomo with santa hat. Slogan reads 'Happy Howlidays.'. Small – Chest sizes 92cm, Medium – 100cm, Large – 110, XLarge – 124cm, 2XLarge – 132cm, 3XLarge – 144cm.



2016 Calendar £8.50

Brighten up your home or office over the coming year with one of our calendars. This A4 calendar opens to A3 in size and provides plenty of space for planning events. Features a different picture of our wolves for each month.



Wolf Head Pen £2.60

Be the envy of everyone with this unique resin wolf head pen. Length 18cm



3D Postcard £1.65

A Deluxebase 3D postcard. Two designs: A) Autumn Encounter and B) Broken Silence. Size 16cm x 12cm



20th Anniversary mug £8.50

Celebrate the Trust's 20th Anniversary with either Torak or Massak & Sikko on one side, and the Trust's 20th Anniversary logo on the other. Not suitable for either dishwasher or microwave - in order to keep the mug's bright and colourful appearance.



Wolf Headband £5.00

A grey & white wolf mask on a headband. Suitable for adults & children. Press nose to make a howling noise.



Cushion £13.00

A satin-feel zipped cushion, with inner pad. Size 40cm square. Available in Four designs: A) Brother, B) Ascending song, C) Guardian of the North, D) Muzzle Nuzzle. (Colour of cushions may vary slightly)



Howl Nights

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound of the wolves howling. The evening starts with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the Trust and have the

opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond! (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars). The event usually finishes from around 9 to 9.30pm.

8th January, 5th February & 18th March, 7pm – 9.30pm

£10 per person. Age 8+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



Wolf Keeper Experience Days

See behind the scenes at the Trust and shadow the keeper in his daily tasks including cleaning out the wolf enclosures, preparing food and feeding the wolves. Learn more about the Trust and the worldwide wolf conservation projects it

supports. Get involved in our wolf enrichment programme, walk with a wolf, snap up great photo opportunities, watch our resident kites circling overhead at feeding time and receive a souvenir event certificate of your day.

On a week day, 10am–4pm, from June onwards.

Please check website for dates.

£150 per person. Maximum 8 people per day. Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



UKWCT Wolf Centre 'Visit Wednesdays'

Visit Wednesdays give you the opportunity to come and see the Trust without pre-booking, unlike our other events. You will be able to observe our ten very charismatic wolves – from our three Arctics with their amazing white coats, to our enigmatic black Canadian wolves – and have a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable volunteers. There will be fantastic photographic views of the wolves

in their large, natural-looking enclosures and you'll have access to the raised photographic platform on site. Hear them howling during the day and watch them being fed at 2pm. We have picnic areas for warmer days, a gift shop for you to browse for books and souvenirs, and free parking. There are plenty of junior activities in the Education Barn, where children can paint a bird or bug box, or follow a nature trail.

Wednesdays – Open from 11am to 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults – £8; Members, children (age 3-12) & OAPs – £5; Children under 3 – FREE. Tickets on the gate only. Sorry, no dogs on site.



DON'T FORGET OUR TURKEY TOSS
Wednesday 30th December 2015

NATURE CRAFT WORKSHOP
Wednesday 17th February



Arctic Amble

Enjoy a walk with our magnificent Arctic wolves and the wonderful photographic opportunities they provide. View all of the Trust's wolves and spend time getting to know the handlers who work with these amazing animals. Afterwards, there will be time to shop for a wolfy souvenir!

**Saturday 30th January,
9am – 11am**

and check website for future dates.
£60 per person. Maximum 16 people.
Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

THE ULTIMATE WOLF DAY: a magical lupine experience

- Spend an amazing day at the UKWCT in the company of our ten wolves
- Walk with **BOTH** the Arctic and Canadian wolves
- The day involves **TWO** walks, allowing you to observe the wolves while they investigate the countryside around the Trust
- Photograph the wolves as they: interact with each other, investigate various scents, paddle in the pond or stream and howl to the other wolves left behind
- Together with our experts, you will then feed the wolves and get involved with our wolf enrichment programme
- See close up how we care for these magnificent animals
- Learn about the worldwide projects currently supported by the UKWCT and in the last twenty years



Check website for future dates, 10am to 3.30pm
£175 per person, £300 for 2 people. Limited spaces. For adults 18+.

Bob Brind-Surch Photographic Workshop With Wolf Walk

An intensive day with your camera photographing the Arctic and Canadian wolves under the guidance of an experienced wildlife photographer. Truly a superb way to improve and perfect your photographic techniques, as well as an excellent opportunity to take home some superb shots. The workshops are tailored to enable Bob

to support everyone from the novice photographers to those who are considerably more experienced. You will gain a better understanding of digital photography techniques and learn how to achieve creative images. Check out Bob's website www.naturesphotos.co.uk (Refreshments available but not lunch included, so please bring your own)

Saturday 6th February, 10am – 4pm £150 Per person.





Photography Day

Each of the four wolf packs can be photographed from an adjoining enclosure where there are specific manmade holes for cameras, giving great results. Expert handlers will encourage the wolves to stand in the best position in their enclosures. You will also be able to use our raised photography platform. During the day the handlers will give a tour of the Trust, seeing all of wolves and learning about each individual. *(Refreshments available but not lunch included, so please bring your own).*

Tuesday 8th March, 10am – 3pm

£80 per person (no wolf walk included). Suitable for all abilities – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



Pancake Fun Day

On Thursday 18th February – the wolves will each be given a pancake stuffed with their favourite treats! These will be filled by the children visiting the Trust on the day from wolftastic ingredients. Watch how the wolves gobble up the pancakes – great photographic opportunities! There is no wolf walk at this event as the wolves are in their breeding season.

Thursday 18th February, 10am – 12.30pm

£10 Per person. Ages: 6 to 12 years old – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



Valentine's Day Walk

What could be a more romantic gift for an animal lover than the chance to walk with wolves? Spend your special time at the Trust in the company of one of the most family-oriented species. It's breeding season for the wolves so you will see them behaving very affectionately towards each other at this special time of year.

Sunday 14th February, 11am – 1.30pm
£100 Per couple – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



Wolf Discovery Day

Spend the whole day studying in depth wolf behaviour close up by observing and getting involved with the welfare of our ten resident wolves. Learn about wolf pack structure, our wolves' personalities and take close up photos.

You will have the opportunity to:

- Listen to a presentation about wolf behaviour.
- Learn personal information on our ten resident wolves.
- Prepare their food and feed the wolves.
- Take part in our enrichment programme for the wolves, which differs daily and observe the behaviours shown. Learn how we keep our wolves healthy and happy.
- Have a tour inside one of our enclosures whilst the wolves are in a different holding area and learn about the habitat we keep our wolves in.
- Undertake wolf tracking and learn how to use our telemetry equipment with our wolf keeper Mike, who has tracked wolves in the wild.
- Have a howling session to encourage the wolves to howl back.
- Have a wrap up presentation about the projects we support. Learn what needs to happen for wolves and humans to coexist in the future.
- Close up photo opportunities throughout the day.

Make sure to bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

Thursday 24th March, 10am – 4pm £90 Per person.

